

vital funding for ongoing construction of a new terminal. This expansion has been good for economic growth in our district and made the airport a more efficient gateway to southwest Michigan.

The honor bestowed upon Mr. Moshoginis is an achievement that makes us all very proud to have such a remarkable person serving the people of our district. Congratulations to Mr. Moshoginis and his employees for being recognized with this well-deserved achievement.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, 2011, I had a family gathering and was not present for rollcall votes 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, and 770. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on rollcall vote 765 and against rollcall votes 766, 767, 768, 769, and 770.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS OF  
NORTH BAY STAND DOWN

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of the men and women who have organized and staffed the North Bay Stand Down, serving homeless military veterans in my 7th Congressional District for a full 10 years. This annual event has quite literally been a lifeline for countless veterans and their families who have found themselves without support or resources to make it on their own.

The North Bay Stand Down was established in 2002 as a one-day, one-stop shop for access to health care and social services. That first year, 100 volunteer workers enrolled 50 veterans in the VA system, provided job counseling to 10 participants, and prepared 150 meals. Over the years, the program has met the ever-growing need in our community by expanding to a full three-day event. Last year alone, 601 volunteers enrolled 265 veterans plus 15 family members in the Veterans Affairs system. In addition, they served 2,700

meals, provided job counseling to 101 participants, resolved 298 court cases, and provided medical services to 413 of the attendees.

Each year, the North Bay Stand Down has recorded remarkable success stories. Veterans have found employment as well as medical and dental care. Many have found the strength and support to commit to a sober lifestyle with the help of the psychiatric services on grounds. Families have been stabilized as they have made the connection to transitional housing programs and counseling services. And Stand Down has provided an opportunity for veterans to connect with old friends finding the critical support network that is born out of shared experiences.

Our military men and women have stepped up to answer our country's call, and what we do for them as a nation after they step out of the uniform must match that level of commitment. While the GI benefits have been expanded in recent years, it is clear that the needs of our returning veterans still outweigh the resources available. The North Bay Stand Down continues to fill in that gap. So many of our returning military veterans are finding barriers to their successful readjustment to civilian life. I am ever grateful for the men and women volunteers of North Bay Stand Down who, year after year, have helped knock those barriers down.